

THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX ~~2576~~ 257/  
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO  
P7B 5G1

January 23, 1993

Dear Fellow Amateur:

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club has undertaken to "twin" with the Irkutsk Radio Club. Mike Jones, who one the kayakers in the Superior-Baikal Connect, contacted Bob VE3JAB as communications with Russia was very difficult and Bob was asked to locate a Russian amateur who would help pass traffic between Canada and Russia. VE3JAB located Serge UA0SR who was in Irkutsk which is in Siberia near Lake Baikal. When Bob had to travel out of town he asked if I would carry one with the sked on Sunday nights with UA0SR. I agreed and along with Jim VE3UA and Mike Jones sitting in communications for the Superior-Baikal Connect continued to a successful conclusion. The skeds have continued since then as the City of Thunder Bay was interested in twinning with Irkutsk and we understand other projects are under way. We are presently helping out with traffic for an upcoming Bike Tour Beijing to Paris starting in April of 1993. A Thunder Bay resident Ludvik Krysl along with Monica Kuhn of Toronto will be participating in this tour.

One of the problems we had in communicating was the receivers on the Russian end, very poor selectivity and audio quality. If you want to be an amateur in Russia you must build your own equipment. When parts are difficult to get and test equipment not available receive and transmit quality is hard to achieve. Terry VE3TKA said at lunch one day why don't we help them out with some equipment and Jim and myself jokingly said we would take it over to Irkutsk. Well this has passed from the joking stage to a commitment to help the amateurs in Irkutsk. We propose to fly to Irkutsk in June taking with us used transceivers, 747's, 757's, TS130's or 140's, whatever we can pick up with the funds available along with a couple of XT IBM comapatables. The monies received from the Thunder Bay award will go towards this effort. We have approached the Federal Government to see if we can get some assistance and now we are coming to you. We will also be approaching some local businesses for funds. If you have an idea where we can raise funds let us know.

We need in excess of \$3000.00 to get this thing rolling exclusive of travelling expense which will be covered by Jim and myself. I know times are not great and money is hard to come by but if you could bring yourself to send \$20.00 toward this venture we could bring it to a successful conclusion. If you cant send \$20.00 at least try to send \$10.00. Every dollar counts. When you

look around your radio room, in most cases you will have within arms reach equipment in excess of \$1000.00 not counting your handhelds and mobile equipment, we are most fortunate. We are asking all the Thunder Bay and district amateurs to help make this a success. We need your help, but more than us, the Russian amateur needs your assistance. It will be a long time before commercial equipment becomes available in Russia. The Russian people are trying to change their country to a democracy and need all the support they can get. Russian amateurs with their skills are participating in this change. While it will be nice to help out with modern radio equipment the most important aspect will be the continuing contact and showing the Russian people we support their efforts to change. They have a long way to go and need all the help they can get. Governments are good at rhetoric but don't always follow up in a material way, we can. The Superior-Baikal Connect was put together to emphasize the environmental importance of these two Great Lakes as well promote contacts between Russia, Canada and the United States.

YOU can help, don't wait, send in your cheque now, we need your help. Skip VE3BBS will be handling all the funds and issuing receipts. If you are in contact with Jim VE3UA, Terry VE3TKA or myself Pat VE3HFS we would be pleased to take the cash donation and pass it along to Skip. If you don't have contact with these people give it to one of the club members who attends the monthly meetings for forwarding to Skip.

REMEMBER, DO IT NOW, DON'T WAIT WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE.

Yours fraternally

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat".

Pat Doherty - VE3HFS

P.S. Mike Jones will be giving a presentation on the Superior-Baikal Connect at the annual dinner on February 11th. I understand he does an excellent presentation, well worth your time to attend. Give Skip VE3BBS a call and arrange for your dinner ticket, you wont regret it.